

Writing: a review

SPOTLIGHT CHECKLIST

PAPER 2, PART 2 Planning a review

Tips

- Read the question carefully, making sure you understand what is required.
- Underline the key points to help you focus.
- Think of the style, structures, and vocabulary you will need and make sure you feel confident about answering the particular question.
- After you have written, check that your style and content are relevant to the question.

Practise:

- reviewing films, books, plays, CDs, concerts as often as you can.
- reading as many entertainment reviews as you can.

1 Look at the following question.

PAPER 2, PART 2

A film review website has invited its visitors to send in reviews of their favourite animated films, briefly outlining the plot, saying what they liked most about it and giving their opinions on any elements of the film that made it stand out from the others. You have decided to write a review.

2 Write a paragraph plan and decide which of the following elements you would write about.

- an outline of the story
- details of the plot
- a description of the characters
- what you liked about it
- what you disliked about it
- background information
- the writer, director or actors
- the setting or costumes
- what awards it won or how successful it was
- when it was written, made or performed
- your recommendation

3 Read the film review on the right and tick the points in the box above that have been mentioned.

4 The paragraphs are mixed up. Number them in the correct order.

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____
4 _____ 5 _____

Toy Story

- a The film was the combined effort of two studios: Pixar and Disney, and it (1) _____ computer graphic films which were soon to dominate the market. Films such as *Finding Nemo*, *Ice Age*, and *Shrek* soon followed and were all huge box office hits. The voice talents of Tom Hanks and Tim Allen helped to draw the crowds.
- b Most of all I loved the humour. The script (2) _____ that never become corny. It can be enjoyed by both adults and children alike; and I'm sure many generations of children will continue to take delight in it.
- c At first Woody is miffed to find himself (3) _____, and the other toys unjustly accuse him of trying to get rid of Buzz, but this misunderstanding takes Woody and Buzz on an adventure that will eventually unite them.
- d *Toy Story* has got to be (4) _____. It's also the first full-length computer animated film which is an achievement (5) _____.
- e It tells the story of Woody, a wooden toy cowboy that belongs to a little boy named Andy. When Andy is not in the room, Woody and the other toys come to life and have a lot of fun. But all this changes when Andy is given a new toy for his birthday – a spaceman called Buzz Lightyear, who (6) _____ the more traditional 'Woody'.



5 Complete the gaps in the review above with one of the following phrases.

- a is loaded with hilarious one-liners
- b sports many more gimmicks and novelties than
- c no longer foremost in Andy's affections
- d in its own right
- e paved the way for
- f one of the all time animated greats

6 PAPER 2, PART 2 Write a review of your favourite animated or children's film.